

Wingham, Oct. 25, '40.

My dear Friend,

I thank you for your letter of the 17 of Oct. I should have returned an answer by Miss Bowles as you requested, had I received it a few hours earlier. I can make no apology for Mr. Smith's not speaking to you in your dream. It is manifestly what he ought to have done. But as I am exceedingly troubled to do all that I ought to do myself, I am about relinquishing the attempt to make others do right, and can therefore take no pain to myself for Mr. Smith's short comings, particularly, when they are of so dreamy a nature. You are very urgent that I should take a table at the coming Fair. I have the same objections that I had when you were here. I still think that I shall be a very inefficient hand, and rather in the way of others, on account of my inexperience, not to say any thing of the want of other qualifications, but I have suffered the impression to go abroad, that I should take a table, in part and mostly to awaken up the dormant zeal, that is slumbering in the hearts of our Wingham Abolitionists. I feel that much more will be contributed, if it is known that one of their number is to superintend the sale of their contributions. In this way, my being with you, will be some advantage. Even this, however, will not make large contributions. Our Society is somewhat new organized in spirit, although not in form. We continue as one society, and all is outwardly harmonious, although we know that some of our members are under the influence of new organizationists. Happily, however, most of them have ever been among our most inefficient members. I have written to Charlotte Bradford, to know if Duxbury will not unite with Wingham, in furnishing

ing a table, & if she or her sister, will not be co-partners with me, in the sale. The articles that will go from here, will be mostly plain, useful, articles, such as childrens sleeve ties, some shirts and dickeys, one or two quilted petticoats, pantaleots, one or two braided floor mats, and such plain things, as Hingham industry and frugality put together. Some warm socks & mittens, & a good supply of Hingham ware, will be thrown in. The only thing that is promised, that can be reckoned under the ornamental, is a wrought muslin collar trimmed with lace which Maria has engaged to furnish. I thank you for your warm invitation to make Mrs. Chapmans my headquarters. I should admire it, above all things, were I not apprehensive that I should crowd some body out better entitled to the place. I have friends in the City with whom I can stay, although they do not sympathize much in my Abolition principles, and would be more happy to see me upon any other occasion. I wish you would give my compliments to Mrs. Chapman, and tell her that I received a letter from her some time ago in reference to the Fair, but not knowing then, what we should do for it, I did not answer ~~the~~ the letter. I do not know what to tell you about Mr Smiths contributions for the Liberty Bell. I suspect it is among the things that are not, as yet, and I am afraid that it will always remain there. He has the Bird fever now, and until that is over, I do not expect any thing from him except in the bird line.

I have seen Mr. Ripleys Letter to his people, since I received your last. I like it very much. I think it may create a new era in his Society. I think his course is more dignified and more christian than Mr. Pierponts. Mr. Alcott was here last week. He spent one evening here with a few invited friends, and there was here very

enough uttered, to set society, the church, and the whole world, a rocking; and it was not all said by Mr. Alcott neither. I go very far with Mr. Alcott, but I liked him on the whole less at this time, than on any former visit. It appeared to me, that he had got somewhat out of patience and exasperated, with the world, and had less of that quiet peaceable spirit, than formerly. He complained much of the treatment that he had received, and there was a tone of bitterness, in his conversation, that I have never seen him have before. I hope his trials will not be greater than he can bear. What do people say in your vicinity, about the call to the convention, to discuss the subject of the sabbath and the ministry &c. I am glad to have this convention, & would go to it, if I could leave home, but I am tied to a parcel of boys, and do not know but what I shall be, for the remainder of my life. Maria has just returned from her long visit, and sends her love to you. Have you heard of Martha's engagement. Mr. Brown is a marrying man after all. Next Saturday she is expected home, accompanied by her lover. She will now be obliged to be an abolitionist, a non-resistant and all the good things. Have you heard of the plan that the transcendentalists have of forming a community at their Head Quarters Concord. Of purchasing a large tract of land, & of having their own schools, their own worship &c. However much I may sympathize in their views, I am sure I shall not join their community. I prefer living with the world's people and affecting them what I can. Adin Ballou, and his followers, I hear are anxious for such a society. What a busy time you must have Miss Weston; how little leisure, unless you say with Mr. Daught, in his beautiful poetic piece in the first Dial "Is not true leisure one with true toil?" I hope now you have so much labor, that you go to bed earlier than is your wont.

Echlin A. S. Smith.

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